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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/902,111	07/11/2001	Hideaki Hijishiri	0905-0263P-SP	8200
2292	7590	10/03/2003	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			TRAN, NHAN T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2615	3

DATE MAILED: 10/03/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/902,111

Applicant(s)

HIJISHIRI ET AL.

Examiner

Nhan T. Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 July 2001 :
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 July 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121..

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 – 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kaji (US 5,838,370).

Regarding claim 1, Kaji discloses an image sensing system comprising:

an image sensing unit (2) for sensing the image of a subject and outputting image data representing the image of the subject (see Fig. 1);

a volatile memory (memory 51) for temporarily storing the image data output from the image sensing unit (see Figs. 1 & 4; col. 5, lines 56-62. It is noted that the memory 51 is used as volatile memory, i.e., RAM or VRAM);

a first display controller (embedded software modules executed by microcomputer 9) for controlling the display unit in such a manner that the image of the subject represented by the image data that has been stored in the volatile memory is displayed on a display screen (see Figs. 1 & 5; col. 4, lines 16-33);

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a zoom area designating unit (10, 11) for designating a zoom area in the image of the subject being displayed on the display screen (see Figs. 1 & 5; col. 4, lines 22-33);

a recording controller for recording, on a recording medium, image data which is contained in the image data output from the image sensing device, representing an image within the area designated by the zoom designating unit (see Fig. 3B; col. 5, lines 24-30. It is noted that the enlarged/zoom image data is recorded after going through enlargement processing circuit 5 and camera signal processing signal 6).

Regarding claim 2, a second display controller (embedded software modules executed by microcomputer 9) for controlling the display unit in such a manner that an image within the zoom area designated by the zoom area designating unit is displayed on the display screen as image of one frame (see Figs. 3A-B & 4; col. 5, lines 37-44).

Regarding claim 3, Kaji further discloses a zoom unit for applying zoom processing (at processing circuits 5 & 6) to image data representing the image within the zoom area designated by the zoom area designating unit (see Fig. 1); wherein the second display control unit controls the display unit in such a manner that a zoom image represented by the image data to which zoom processing has been applied by the zoom unit is displayed on the display screen as image of one frame (see Fig. 1; col. 4, lines 9-16, wherein the enlarged/zoom image is processed and displayed as shown in Figs. 3A-B).

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Regarding claim 4, Kaji also discloses a brightness determination unit (exposure control 19) for determining whether the image within the zoom area designated by the zoom area designating unit has suitable brightness; and brightness adjustment unit, responsive to the determination by unit that that the image within the zoom area does not suitable brightness, for adjusting luminance level of the image within the zoom area in such a manner that the image within the zoom area takes on a suitable brightness (see Fig. 2; col. 6, line 55 – col. 7, line 53 and col. 4, lines 50-57, wherein the brightness or luminance level of the zoom area is properly adjusted as needed by controlling exposure level of the image pickup device 2).

Regarding claim 5, the claimed limitations are analyzed with respect to claims 1-4.

Regarding claim 6, a third display controller (embedded software modules executed by microcomputer 9) for controlling display unit so as to display the zoom area on the display screen (see Figs. 3A-B & 5); and designating unit (10) for designating the size of the zoom area; wherein the recording controller records image data, which represents an image within a zoom area having size conforming to the designation made by the designating unit, on a recording medium (Figs. 3A and 5 show different sizes and positions of selected zoom areas, and col. 5, lines 24-31 shows recording the resultant signals output from the zoom areas).

Regarding claim 7, the claimed limitations are analyzed with respect to claim 1.

Regarding claim 8, the claimed limitations are analyzed with respect to claims 1-4.

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nhan T. Tran whose telephone number is (703) 605-4246. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 8:00am - 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew B Christensen can be reached on (703) 308-9644. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

NT.



ANDREW CHRISTENSEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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